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The First CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
THETFORD VERMONT

Cover Design by Philip Martin
Historical Material furnished by
Rev. and Mrs. William Slade
1937

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Psalm 121

Photograph by *Langill*

Thetford Hill Village in 1899 looking east from Sunset Hill showing New Hampshire hills with Mt. Moosilauke in the left distance

Photograph by W. *Babcock Swift*

View in 1895

Showing the tower before the clock was added, the old horse sheds, and the first parsonage built about 1800 by Judge Jedidiah P. Buckingham and sold to the First Congregational Society in 1830 for the fourth pastor, Rev. Elisha G. Babcock. Before this date the pastors had owned their own homes

Photograph by *Clara E. Sipprell*

The Church in 1937

Photograph by *Gladys W. Estabrook*

Winter View

Photograph by *Clara E. Sipprell*

Church Interior 1937

Showing the present pulpit which was installed in 1858 when the high pulpit was removed. The panels were added in 1908

Photograph by *Clara E. Sipprell*

Church Interior 1937

Rear arch added and doors removed from
pews in 1858

Photograph by *Clara E. Sipprell*

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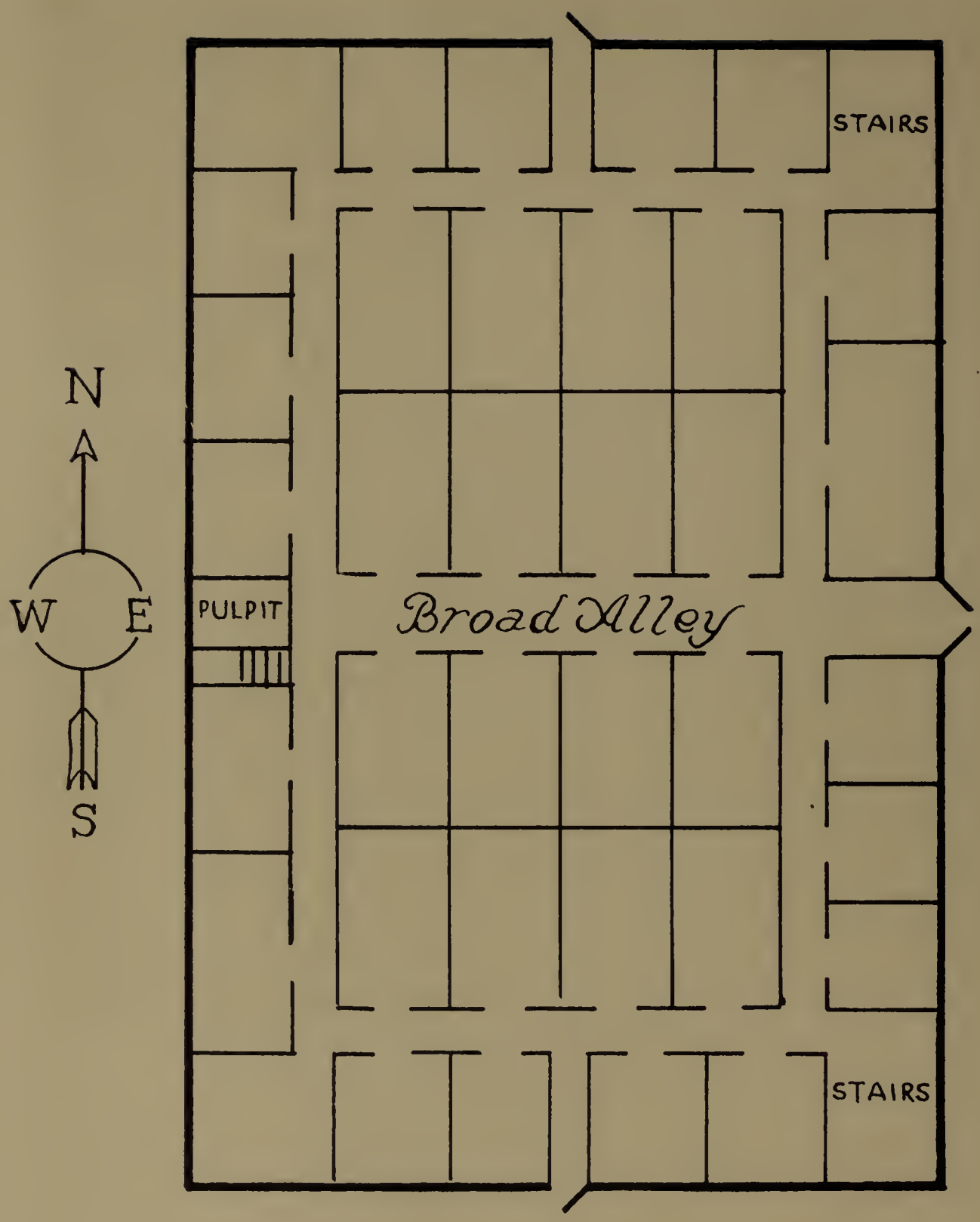
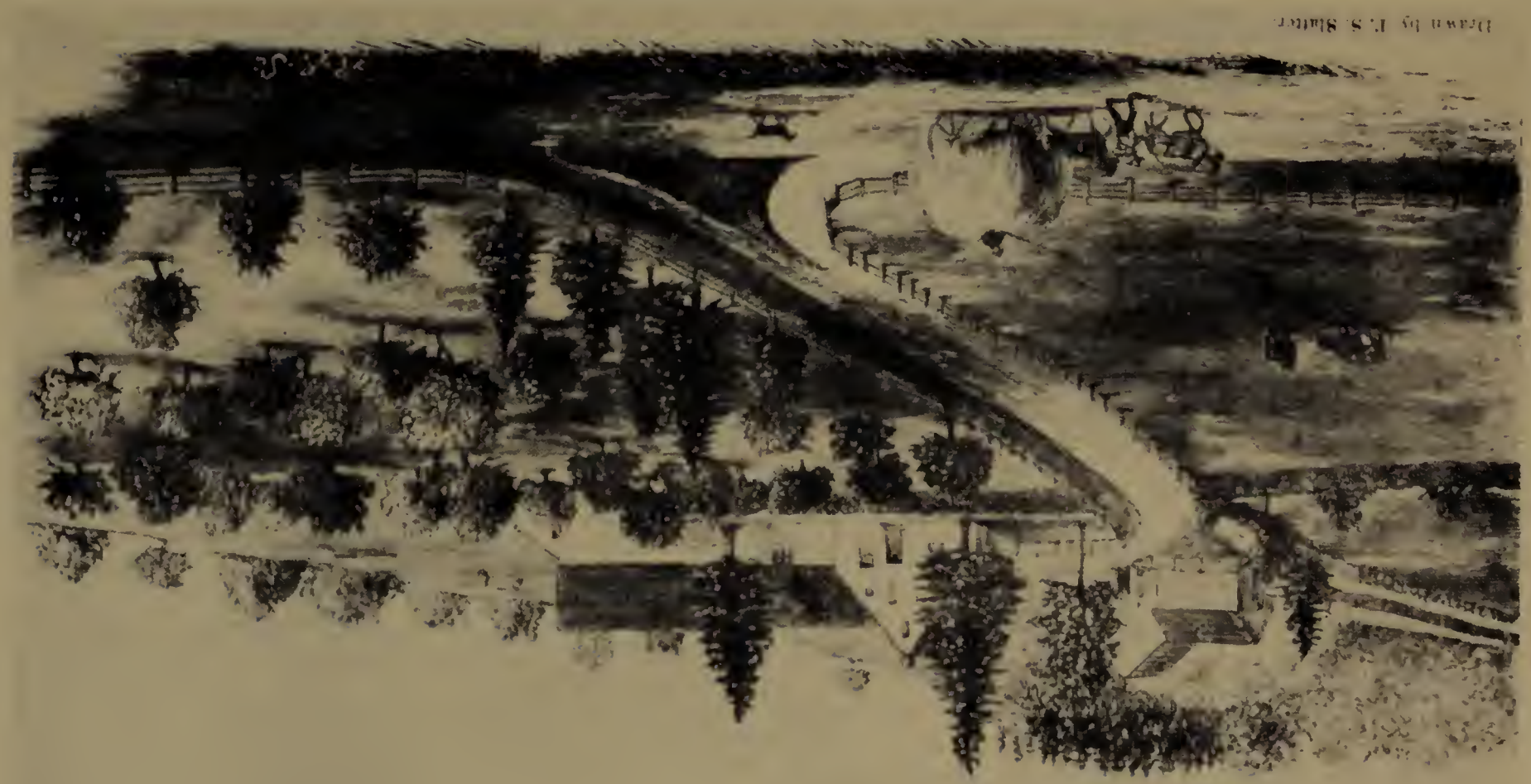


Reconstructed from a chart dated 1813, other charts, and letters. First Floor Plan. Square pews in center held 16 people each. The capacity of the floor and gallery was not far from 1000

Photograph by *Gladys W. Estabrook*

Part of the roof truss. The hand-hewn members of the truss are joined by wooden pins. The center post measures 12"x13", the horizontal member 11"x14"

Drawn by F. S. Blatter.



The home of Rev. Asa Burton D.D. the second pastor, as it was in 1867. Dr. Burton built this house in 1779, partly by his own labor, and lived in it until 1816 when he bought a home occupying the site of the present parsonage on the Hill

House built by Loved Garey about 1844,
and bought by the Society for a parson-
age. Burned January 11, 1927

Present Parsonage completed December
1927

Asa Burton

Asa Burton A.M., D.D. born in Stonington, Conn., August 25, 1752, and died in Thetford, May 1, 1936.

Distinguished pastor of the Thetford First Church for fifty-seven years.

From a portrait painted in oils on linen and sent back to Thetford by his great grandson, Clarence Burton West of Sheridan, Wyoming in 1937

January 19th 1829

For Yearly Anniversary Sermon.

2. Peter. 1. 13-15. Yea I think it meet as long as I am in this tabernacle to stir you up by putting you in remembrance. — Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance

Upon the day of Pentecost, when Peter delivered his first Gospel sermon, he endeavored to preach the great doctrines of redemption, & to shew clearly the way of salvation through faith in Christ. And now at the closing period of his life he felt it to be his duty to remind all the elect Church, of the doctrines & precepts, which he had taught them. every his ministry, taught them. for he must soon close his life by mortal decree, as his Lord had predicted.

First page of sermon preached in this church by Dr. Burton after fifty years of service

A

SERMON,

PREACHED AT *WINDSOR*,

BEFORE

His Excellency Thomas Chittenden, Esq; Governor,
His Honor Paul Spooner, Esq; Deputy-Governor,
The Honorable Council,
AND
The Honorable House of Representatives of the State of *Vermont*,

ON THE DAY OF THE

ANNIVERSARY ELECTION,

OCTOBER 13, 1785.

BY ASA BURTON, A. M.
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN THETFORD.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy GOD, with all thy Heart—and thy Neighbour as thyself.——— Matt. xxii. 37, 39.
For Men shall be Lovers of their Own selves.——— 2 Tim. iii. 2.

WINDSOR:
PRINTED BY HOUGH AND SPOONER.
M. DCC. LXXXVI.

Title page of the first "Election Sermon" preached by Dr. Burton. He delivered a second one in 1795.

Probably printed on a press brought from England in 1638, the first in the United States, and now preserved in the Vermont Historical Society Library in Montpelier

August 12, 1761

Town of Thetford chartered by the Province of New Hampshire.

1764

First permanent settlement by John Chamberlain.

1773

"The Church of Christ in Thetford" organized.

1777

Vermont became an independent republic.

1780

First Church building, of logs, built by the Town on the present North Thetford road.

1787

Present Church building erected on the Common by the Town.

1791

Vermont admitted to the Union.

1830

Church building moved to the present site, square pews removed, tower and vestibule added.

1858

Building remodeled; high pulpit replaced by present pulpit; pews rebuilt; platform lowered; floor raised; elliptical arch, plaster cornice, ornaments, and chandeliers added; walls painted in large brick-shaped blocks in two shades of brown.

1908

Platform enlarged, panels added, walls redecorated.